

3881, or to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs), 1200 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1200.

#### CONTESTING RECORDS PROCEDURES:

The OSD's rules for accessing records, for contesting contents and appealing initial agency determinations are published in OSD Administrative Instruction 81; 32 CFR part 311; or may be obtained from the system manager.

#### RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Information is from the individuals themselves, witnesses to a possible agent event, health care providers who have evaluated patients with illnesses possibly related to service in the Persian Gulf, as well as extracts from historical records to include: personnel files and lists, unit histories, medical records, and related sources.

#### EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

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BILLING CODE 5000-04-F

#### Proposed Information Collection Available for Public Comment; Notice

In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) announces the following proposed public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collection; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) (Requirements and Resources), ATTN: Reports Clearance Officer, Room 3C980, 4000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-4000. Consideration will be given to all comments received within 60 days of the date of publication of this notice.

*Title:* Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS): 1996 Impact Aid Funding Surveys.

*Summary:* This information collection consists of telephone interviews with both state education officials and local school district officials regarding the levels and sources of funding for local education agencies (LEAs) that have over 30 percent of students as military dependents. The proposed information collection will use a computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) technique, in which telephone interviewers enter responses into a computerized data file. The primary purpose of this survey effort is to determine the feasibility of transferring the Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) to local education agencies.

*Needs and Uses:* The Department of Defense (DoD) currently funds the operation of 58 Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) on 15 military installations within the United States (excluding Puerto Rico). These schools were originally funded because the local communities could not provide a suitable education for military dependents living on these installations. In recent years, changes in local conditions and in federal funding priorities have led Congress to reconsider federal funding for the DDESS schools. In 1985, Congress required that the DoD submit a plan for the transfer of the DDESS schools to local education agencies. Although DoD conducted case studies of each DDESS, no action was taken regarding transfer. However, continuing efforts to reduce the federal deficit led the 103rd Congress to request a new study of the transfer issue. House of Representatives Conference Report 103-701 (pp. 963-964) requires that the Department of Defense collect information concerning the possibility of transferring the remaining 15 DDESS schools to neighboring local education agencies. Since a transfer to LEAs would require some mechanism to ensure adequate funding, the appropriate means and sources of funds for LEAs that enroll high proportions of military students is a critical determinant of the feasibility and success of any transfer effort. The House Conference Report, therefore, directs the DoD to conduct a survey of school districts operated by local education agencies in which over 30 percent of enrolled students are military dependents, in order to determine the level of funding for such schools and the sources of that funding. The legislation further specifies that the survey collect information on (1) the previous level of financial support provided by DoD and other federal agencies, and the timing of fiscal

decisions concerning the education of military-connected students; (2) the positions of the LEAs and their corresponding state education officials regarding the responsibility of LEAs to educate military-connected students who reside on military installations; and (3) how funding of these school districts compares with other districts within the state that do not have a large percentage of military-dependent students. Findings from the data collection (along with findings from required surveys of military parents regarding the quality of education at the DDESS schools and at the highly impacted LEAs) will be submitted in a report to Congress. Congress will use this information in its consideration of the feasibility of transferring the DDESS schools to local education agencies.

*Affected Public:* State and local governments.

*Annual Burden Hours* (Including Recordkeeping): 65.5 hours.

*Number of Respondents:* 131.

*Responses per Respondent:* One.

*Average Burden per Response:* 30 minutes.

*Frequency:* One time.

To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the above address or call the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) Reports Clearance Officer at (703) 614-4989.

Dated: November 29, 1995.

L.M. Bynum,

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

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